

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 15, 22, 23, 24, 28, 30, 37 and 38 as shown on the mark-up versions of the claims attached herewith. The submitted mark-up versions of the claims follows the new amendment rules, wherein added text has been underlined, deleted text has been stricken through, and the status of the claims has been indicated. The remaining claims are unchanged.

Remarks

Claims 1, 3-11, 14-19, 22, 28, 30 and 37 are allowed.

The following claim amendments were made, in accordance with the Examiner's instructions in the pending Office Action, to overcome the rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, to comply with objections and/or requirements as to form, and thus place the claims in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 15, 28 and 30 were amended to correct a typographical error; namely, the spelling of "linked."

Claims 22 and 37 were amended to correct matters of form not addressed in Applicants' previous response.

Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for lacking antecedent basis for the phrase "the polymeric component." The Examiner indicated that claim 24 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection. Claim 24 has been rewritten to include reference to "a polymeric component." Claim 24 has also been amended to correct certain punctuation errors as noted by the Examiner. Applicants believe that amended claim 24 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 38 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for lacking antecedent basis for the phrase "of claim 35." The Examiner indicated that claim 38 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection. Claim 38 depends from claim 37, not claim 35, and has been rewritten to correct that typographical error. Applicants believe that amended claim 38 is now in condition for allowance.